COATS ANNUAL REPORT

September 1, 2000 to August 31, 2001
and
September 1, 2001 to August 31, 2002

Introduction

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards (COATS) was established in 1985 by Ministerial Order and its mandate continues to be reaffirmed. COATS provides advice and recommendations to the Minister of Learning on all matters related to teachers and teaching, including: teacher certification, teacher education, practice review, teaching excellence and other matters of interest to the Minister. COATS also plays a role in addressing Practice Review of Teachers Regulation complaints and in the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program.

As COATS members represent various provincial education organizations, COATS conducts its activities in ways that are designed to foster, encourage and enhance partnerships within the education community. Through its work, COATS brings the education community together to work toward providing the best possible education for Alberta students.

105-05143/

Membership of Council

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards is comprised of representatives from provincial education organizations, a member of the public and practicing teachers. The Chair of COATS is appointed from the membership by the Minister of Learning. The Registrar for Alberta Learning serves the Council in an ex officio, non-voting capacity and as Executive Secretary.

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

Teacher Representatives

Dr. Dale Bischoff
T.A. Norris Junior High
Peace River School Division

Mr. Larry Albrecht
Brooks Composite High
Grasslands Regional Division

Mr. David Johansson
Memorial Composite High
Parkland School Division

Dr. Claude Oppenheim
The Calgary Jewish Academy — Association of Independent Schools and Colleges of Alberta

Dr. Joanne Neal
Resource Development Services
Edmonton Public School District

Public Member

Ms. Debbie Cavaliere
Member of the Public

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 continued

Partner Representatives

Dr. Donna Smith
Alberta Learning

Mr. Ron Zapisocki
Alberta School Boards Association

Dr. Klaus Puhlmann
(Chair)
College of Alberta School Superintendent

Dr. Laurie Walker
University of Lethbridge
Faculty of Education
(September 2000 – September 2001)

Dr. David Sande
University of Alberta
Faculty of Education
(October 2001 – September 2002)

Mr. Luigi Gatti
The Alberta Teachers' Association

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND LEGAL COUNSEL 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

Administrative Support

Mr. Fred Burghardt
REGISTRAR,
Professional Development and Certification

Ms. Pamela Wolfe
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
Professional Development and Certification

Ms. Karen Belanger
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT,
Professional Development and Certification

Legal Counsel

Mr. Jerry McKenna
Alberta Justice

Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself.

John Dewey

Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Excellence in Teaching Awards Program recognizes teachers for their creativity, innovation and effectiveness. Yearly, thousands of Albertans join to celebrate teaching excellence in award ceremonies across the province.

The 2000-2001 Program was supported by Alberta Learning as well as the following business and education partners: The Document Company, XEROX; the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta; the Alberta School Boards Association; The Alberta Teachers' Association; Fraser Milner and Casgrain; Syncrude; TELUS; and the Edmonton Journal. The Alberta Chambers of Commerce and the Calgary Herald also assisted sponsoring the Program.

The 2001 Awards Ceremony was held in Calgary on May 5, 2001 and the Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Learning and Mr. Mel Thompson, Chair of the Alberta Excellence in Teaching Foundation presented provincial Award Recipients with framed certificates and souvenir pins. Sponsor representatives presented Recipients with a cash award for their school. The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) became a Foundation member in 2000-2001 and presented the first Excellence in Teaching Mathematics/Science Award. The 4th Annual TELUS Innovative Use of Technology Award was presented at the 2000-2001 Awards Program. This Award recognized teachers' exemplary use of electronic technology in meeting the Excellence in Teaching Awards selection criteria.

The 2001-2002 Awards Program was presented by Alberta Learning and the Alberta Excellence in Teaching Foundation. Members and sponsors of the Foundation included: The Document Company, XEROX; the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta; the SMARTer Kids Foundation; the Alberta School Boards Association; the Edmonton Journal; Fraser Milner Casgrain and the Alberta Chambers of Commerce.

In 2001-2002 the SMARTer Kids Foundation joined the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program and became the sponsor/presenter of the Innovative Use of Technology Award. Their organization presented the recipient's school with an electronic equipment donation valued at $12,000 (Canadian funds).

"Throughout the semester he encouraged and inspired us to question and seek information from areas of the science field that went beyond the limits of our text book"

(quoted by a student)

Excellence in Teaching Awards continued

Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients excel in attending to individual student needs and involving parents in student learning.

Criteria for Selection

In consultation with members of the Alberta Excellence in Teaching Foundation, teachers and superintendents, a decision was made by the Minister of Learning to forgo the 2001/2002 Gala celebration in Edmonton. This decision was made out of respect and consideration for the teachers being honoured, based on an understanding that this event may have been uncomfortable for participants given the climate in the Alberta education community during the spring of 2002. Despite this change, all Excellence in Teaching Awards Recipients were honoured and celebrated in local ceremonies sponsored by their respective school jurisdictions. Recipients' framed certificates, souvenir pins and cash awards were forwarded to superintendents for distribution at the local level ceremonies.

In both 2001 and 2002, all eligible nominees received a Certificate of Nomination in recognition of their nomination.

In 2000-2001 the Committee selected one hundred and twenty five nominees as Excellence in Teaching Award Finalists, three TELUS Innovative Use of Technology Award Finalists and three APEGGA Excellence in Teaching Mathematics/Science Finalists. Finalists' Certificates were provided to employing school boards that conducted local presentation ceremonies. From among the Finalists, 20 teachers were named to receive a Provincial Excellence in Teaching Award, one was named as the provincial TELUS Award Recipient and one as the provincial APEGGA Award Recipient.

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Excellence in Teaching Award

Recipients excel in motivating students

to exceed their own expectations.

Criteria for Selection

Recipients of the 2000-2001

Provincial Excellence in Teaching Awards

Back row, l to r: Frank Gnandt, Robert Nerenberg, Mary Dunnigan, Judith Moser, Joseph Blanchfield, Terry Van Leeuwen, Stacy Frigon, Betty Green, Tamara Greenstein, Brian Mulder, Stephen Gibbings, Raymond Baril

Front row, l to r: Agnieszka Barwacz, Patricia Kimura, Joanne Hamel, Dolores Whiting, Sunita Sahasrabuddhe, Hon. Dr. Lyle Oberg - Minister of Learning, Mr. Mel Thompson - Chair Alberta Excellence in Teaching Foundation, Shirley Jones, Marguerite Baker, Gail Conquest, Carole Sue Bailey

CALGARY
Joseph T. Blanchfield
BISHOP GRANDIN HIGH SCHOOL
Betty Green
ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

CAYLEY
Shirley Jones
CAYLEY COLONY SCHOOL

CLARESHOLM
Judy-Florence Moser
LITTLE BOW COLONY SCHOOL

EDMONTON
Carole Sue Bailey
ALBERTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
Raymond M. Baril
W.P. WAGNER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Gail Conquest
W.P. WAGNER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Mary Dunnigan
AUSTIN O'BRIEN HIGH SCHOOL
Stacy V. Frigon
CAPILANO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Brian Mulder
CENTRE HIGH
Robert A. Nerenberg
JASPER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL
Sunita Sas
MCARTHUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Terry Van Leeuwen
ALLENDALE SCHOOL
Dolores M. Whiting
LANDSDOWNE SCHOOL

LETHBRIDGE
Frank R. Gnandt
LETHBRIDGE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

MEDICINE HAT
Mme. Joanne Hamel
CONNAUGHT SCHOOL – ECOLE CONNAUGHT

SEBA BEACH
Jason William Morrison
SEBA BEACH SCHOOL

ST. ALBERT
Marguerite Baker
LEO NICKERSON ELEMENTARY
Tammy Greenstein
LEO NICKERSON ELEMENTARY

STRATHMORE
Agnieszka Barwacz
STRATHMORE HIGH SCHOOL

TELUS
SHERWOOD PARK
Patricia Kimura
F.R. HAYTHORNE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

APEGGA
CARDSTON
Stephen P. Gibbings
CARDSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients excel in demonstrating an in-depth knowledge of subject matter and curriculum.

Recipients of the 2001-2002 Provincial Excellence in Teaching Awards

of Recipients for 2001-2002 Not Available

ARDROSSAN
Arlene Margaret Dutchak
ARDROSSAN ELEMENTARY

CALGARY
Rhonda L. McCarthy
ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
Catherine J. Skoratko
ECOLE ST. WILFRID ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DRUMHELLER
Jan Quinney
HILLTOP EDUCATION CENTRE

DUCHESS
Laura Lelond
DUCHESS SCHOOL

EDMONTON
Russell Campbell
SPRUCE AVENUE SCHOOL
Ed Carson
ST. ANGELA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Sandy Cross
LAPERLE SCHOOL
Nicole Maas
ST. PAUL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Donald Dean Myers
LAPERLE SCHOOL
Douglas B. Nelson
ST. THOMAS MORE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Patricia Radcliffe
AVONMORE SCHOOL

HINTON
David William Wilson McCune
GERARD REDMOND COMMUNITY CATHOLIC SCHOO

HUGHENDEN
Jennifer Clarissa Faye Gallaway
HUGHENDEN SUNSHINER'S PRESCHOOL

MILK RIVER
Howard Stribbell
ERLE RIVERS HIGH SCHOOL

RED DEER
Tanya Leigh Fletcher
NORMANDEAU SCHOOL

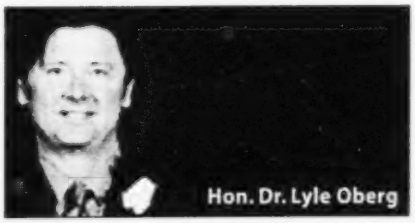
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE
Regan J. Long
ECOLE ROCKY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ST. ALBERT
Amy Bautista
LEO NICKERSON ELEMENTARY
Terry Anne Starko
LEO NICKERSON ELEMENTARY

VULCAN
Bill Brandley
COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

APEGGA
EDMONTON
Powell Jones
ROSS SHEPPARD HIGH SCHOOL

SMARTer KIDS FOUNDATION
EDMONTON
Rob Madunicky
GOOD SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL


Hon. Dr. Lyle Oberg

Practice Review of Teachers Regulation

2000-2001
In the course of the 2000/2001 school year, the Registrar received 26 inquiries from individuals concerned about teachers' alleged unskilled or incompetent practices. Of the 26 calls, 21 were from parents and 5 were from individuals who wished not to identify themselves.

The majority of callers were counselled to use problem-solving strategies at the local level to address concerns. If callers provided their names and addresses, and requested information about making a complaint, the Registrar forwarded to each of them the *Information Guide About How To Make A Complaint*, as well as a copy of the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation (AR 4/99). Several callers also were referred to The Alberta Teachers' Association given that concerns appeared to be related to the conduct of teachers employed by Alberta school boards.

Two complaints received by the Registrar were investigated. Both resulted in no further action owing to insufficient evidence to warrant a Practice Review Panel Hearing.

(one was a complaint made by an overseas school regarding an Alberta certificated teacher; the other concerned a teacher in Alberta who resigned.)

"...the best educational interests of the student are the paramount considerations in the exercise of any authority under this Act ...."

Alberta School Act

2001-2002
In the course of the 2001-2002 school year, the Registrar received 35 inquiries from individuals concerned about teachers' alleged unskilled or incompetent practices.

The majority of callers were counseled to use problem-solving strategies at the local level to resolve concerns. If callers provided their names and addresses, and requested information about making a complaint, the Registrar forwarded to each of them the *Information Guide About How To Make A Complaint*, as well as a copy of the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation (AR 4/99).

The Registrar addressed 11 complaints. One complaint was withdrawn by the complainant; four complaints currently are under investigation; and in respect to two complaints the Registrar decided there was insufficient evidence to warrant forwarding the complaints to Panels. In one case, the complainants requested an appeal to the Complainant

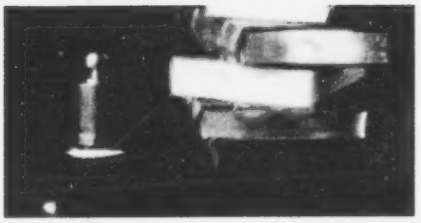
Practice Review of Teachers Regulation continued

Review Committee. Two Practice Review Panel Hearings were held and in one case the Panel found the actions of the teacher constituted unprofessional conduct under Section 19(1) of the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation, as, in the opinion of the Panel, that conduct was detrimental to the best interests of students, the public or teachers generally. The Panel recommended that the Minister issue a letter of reprimand to the teacher.

The second Practice Review Panel Hearing found that the teacher exhibited unprofessional conduct in the matter of an e-mail, and subsequently suspended the teacher's teaching certificate for a period of one year effective the date of the Hearing. Reinstatement conditions were also imposed prior to re-issuance of the teacher's teaching certificate. Two complaints await hearings by Practice Review Panels.

A teacher affects eternity;
he can never tell where his influence stops.

Henry Adams



Certification Appeal Committee

A teacher member of the Council on Alberta Teaching Standards sits on the Certification Appeal Committee (CAC). The CAC hears appeals from individuals who have been denied interim or permanent certification by the Registrar for Alberta Learning.

Teachers hold a special role in the life of young people. In our society the role of the teacher is second in importance only to the parent.

Canadian Supreme Court decision

2000-2001

In 2000/2001, eight (8) appeals were heard. Four (4) appeals concerned denial of teacher certification owing to criminal convictions. The Committee allowed the appeal of one individual and the Registrar was directed to issue Alberta teacher certification. In the case of the other three appeals, one was upheld, one was varied and one was deferred.

Four (4) appeals concerned the Registrar's decision to deny certification to applicants owing to their failure to present evidence of possessing an acceptable teacher preparation program. The Registrar's decisions were upheld in two (2) cases and in the other two (2) cases, the Committee varied the decisions of the Registrar.

2001-2002

In 2001/2002, eight (8) appeals were scheduled. Five (5) appeals concerned denial of teacher certification owing to criminal convictions. The Committee allowed the appeals of four of these individuals and the Registrar was directed to issue Alberta teacher certification. In one case the decision of the Registrar was varied.

Three (3) appeals concerned the Registrar's decision to deny certification to applicants owing to their failure to present evidence of possessing an acceptable teacher preparation program. The Registrar's decisions were upheld in all three (3) cases.

COATS Accomplishments

Who dares to teach must never cease to learn.

John Cotton Dana

2000-2001

- MLAs were provided an "information toolkit" about teachers and teaching in Alberta. The "toolkit" included several teacher vignettes as well as statistics on the number of certificated staff in Alberta, total years of experience, information about the number of students graduating from teacher preparation programs in Alberta, etc.; and, a "Did You Know" column providing information about the Council, and its mandate.
- The "Principles to Guide Teachers Supported by Teacher Assistants" was distributed to all Alberta school superintendents, as well as to principals of private schools and Basic Learning Directors.
- The 2001 Excellence in Teaching Awards Program selection process was amended so that participating teachers would not be out of the classroom for five consecutive days. The Council also approved an amendment to the eligibility statement on the nomination form to permit principals to be nominated for an Award.
- The "Information and Guidelines for Persons Considering Making a Complaint under the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation" was amended to inform potential complainants that a copy of their complaint would be provided to the teacher who is the subject of a complaint.
- COATS approved operational guidelines for use by the Registrar concerning the conditions under which some in-service teacher preparation programs may be deemed acceptable when assessing credentials of applicants for Alberta teacher certification.
- On June 1, 2001, The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards (COATS) adopted a motion to pursue, subject to Ministerial approval, an initiative to develop a discussion paper and conduct consultations about the appropriate role of distance education delivered courses or program components within pre-service teacher education programs for purposes of teacher certification. This COATS initiative stemmed from earlier discussions between staff of Professional Development and Certification Branch, Alberta Learning, and the Associate Deans of provincial faculties of education. The interest of the Associate Deans in distance education arose owing to the reality that some Alberta students were taking courses by distance. In addition, interest stemmed from the fact that current Alberta Learning policy, based on consultations with stakeholders over the years, requires that applicants for teacher certification must complete the basic professional teacher preparation component of their studies intramurally.

COATS Accomplishments continued

2001-2002

- The COATS web-site was launched in October of 2001(www.teachingquality.ab.ca) and provides information about teacher professionalism, teacher preparation and certification, teaching quality, standards for teaching practice, teacher professional knowledge, and competencies (knowledge, skills and attributes) for quality teaching. The website also provides information for individuals concerned about a teacher's teaching practices or conduct.
- Council considered proposed amendments to the Certification of Teachers Regulation (AR 3/99). The current Regulation came into effect January 1999 and is subject to review in 2003.
- Further to its June 2001 decision, Council approved a discussion paper on the inclusion and acceptance of distance delivered courses within teacher preparation programs. Council asked that researchers arrange for focus group discussions in four centres across the province with representation from Alberta's key education stakeholders (ATA, ASBA, AISCA, AHSCA, teacher preparation programs). The purpose of the focus groups was to explore both the appropriate role of distance delivery within teacher preparation programs and the possible acceptability of distance delivered courses, programs or parts of programs, for purposes of teacher certification in Alberta.
- Council reviewed the draft survey instruments for the collection of information about the extent to which Alberta teacher preparation programs successfully deliver to graduates, the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for initial certification; and, the efficacy of professional development opportunities provided to beginning teachers. In this regard Council looks forward to acting as an advisory body regarding any recommendations from the report that will be put forward for consideration in Spring 2003.
- Based on feedback from education partners, Foundation members and sponsors, Council modified the Excellence in Teaching Awards selection criteria regarding nominees involvement in extra-curricular activities to focus instead on how a nominee excels at demonstrating caring for the well-being of students and colleagues, thereby contributing to a positive school climate.
- Council oversaw the collaborative development with the three faculties of Education, The Alberta Teachers' Association, and Alberta Learning of the "Be a Teacher – Shape the Future" brochure to promote becoming a teacher. This colourful brochure was distributed under covering letter by the Chair of COATS in December 2001 to deans of education, school board chairs, school council chairs, superintendents, principals, and school counselors of schools offering grades 9 to 12.

Further information about any activities of the
Council on Alberta Teaching Standards
may be obtained by contacting:

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